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Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton Leads National Discussions

Norton serves as a voice for Colorado in our Nation's Capitol

(DENVER) – As the elected chair of the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA), Colorado's Lt. Governor Jane Norton will convene the winter meeting of the second-highest ranking officials in state and territorial governments in Washington D.C. on February 6 – 8, 2006. The NLGA, organized in 1962, is a professional association for lieutenant governors in the 50 states and five territorial jurisdictions. The organization focuses on issues in state and territorial government including public health, education, developing state international trade and homeland security.

Norton, in this important leadership position, is able to advance issues and initiatives that are critical to the nation and to the State of Colorado. Among the sessions will be a three-hour security simulation focusing on the vital role state government plays in public safety, conducted by the Center for Homeland Defense and Security.

Additionally, the Assistant Secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. John Agwunobi, will hold a round-table discussion with members focusing on coordinated efforts in public health response, including work on the avian flu.

"Many of the issues we address for our constituents, such as public health and safety, cross state lines," said Norton. "Whether discussing avian flu or homeland security, this preparation ensures the best response for our citizenry. Going through the scenarios sitting side-by-side with colleagues from around the country provides the added value of developing relationships – relationships that can become key during a time of crisis."

During the executive meeting Lt. Governor Norton will introduce several resolutions, including a call to support Colorado-based Project C.U.R.E., Bone Marrow Donation and The Ally Foundation.

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Beyond the homeland security and healthcare discussions, there will be an overview of legislative efforts, including best practices in addressing sexual predators and efforts to reduce the cost of textbooks in schools. Members will hear forecasts for the manufacturing sectors including the automobile, mining and steel industries. Finally, members will hear recommendations from the White House Conference on Aging on how states can best handle the growing aging population.

The meeting will conclude with a Congressional reception, providing an opportunity for the states' local and federal leaders to discuss potential impacts of pending Congressional action.

For more information on the National Lieutenant Governors Association, please visit www.nlga.us.

Additional information:

Project C.U.R.E. - <http://www.projectcure.org/cure/overview.aspx>

National Marrow Donor Program - <http://www.marrow.org/index.html>

The Ally Foundation - <http://www.theallyfoundation.org/>

Jane Norton was sworn in as Colorado's 46th Lieutenant Governor on January 13, 2003. Her responsibilities include serving as the chair of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs; acting as point person for the Owens Administration on health insurance reform; strengthening families by promoting adoption, early childhood care and education efforts/initiatives, mentoring and volunteerism; and serving as Colorado's delegate to the Aerospace States Association.

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